

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for processing digital images comprising:

a reference platform;

5 a camera interface coupled to the reference platform and operable to receive a digital input; and

a communication interface coupled to the reference platform operable to communicate said digital input to a wide area network.

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2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the reference platform comprises:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and

15 a data storage media operable to store configuration data and said digital input.

3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface device is operable to communicate to a service provider.

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4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a dial up modem.

25 5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is to a broadband enabled network.

6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is an Ethernet network.

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7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a token ring.

8. The device of Claim 1, wherein the 5 communication interface is a FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface).

9. The device of Claim 1, wherein the 10 communication interface is an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network.

10. The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface uses TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).

15 11. The device of Claim 1, wherein the camera interface is selected from a group consisting of Smart Media, Compact Flash, USB, BlueTooth, Sony Memory Stick, floppy disk, compact disk, and zip disk.

20 12. The device of Claim 1, further comprising a digital camera coupled to the reference platform.

13. A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing image data on a storage media;
connecting the storage media to a reference
5 platform;
connecting the reference platform to a service
provider; and
uploading the image data to the service provider.

10 14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of editing the uploaded image data on the service provider.

15 15. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of processing the image data in the storage media.

16. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of deleting image data from the storage media after each image is uploaded.

20 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of enabling a user to view the image via a web browser.

25 18. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of providing that the service provider print the image.

30 19. the method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of creating a web page with the image data.

20. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of creating a compact disk with the image data.

5 21. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of directing the image data to be processed at a processing center in close proximity to the end user.

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22. A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing for a reference platform;
establishing a standard default profile in the
5 reference platform;
connecting a reference platform to a website for
setting initial user profile information; and
downloading initial user profile information onto
the reference platform.

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23. The method of Claim 22, wherein establishing a standard default profile comprises:

providing a modem; and
setting a phone number to dial.

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24. The method of Claim 22, wherein user profile information is selected from a group consisting of:

a username and password;
an identification number of a device;
20 a method of payment;
a setting to allow access;
a printing preference;
a printing location preference;
a mailing preference; and
25 an e-mailing preference.

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25. A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing a reference platform;
establishing a standard default profile in the
5 reference platform; and
establishing initial user profile information on the
reference platform without requiring user interface.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein user profile
10 information is selected from a group consisting of:

a username and password;
an identification number of a device;
a method of payment;
a setting to allow access;
15 a printing preference;
a printing location preference;
a mailing preference; and
an e-mailing preference.

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27. A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing a reference platform device from a retail outlet to a consumer;

5 connecting the device to a central server;
establishing an account with the central server;
configuring the device;
uploading images to the central server; and
directing the central server to process images.

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28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of providing the reference platform device to a consumer further comprises giving the device to the consumer for free.

15 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of
 directing the central server to process images further
 comprises the step of printing the images at a printer at
 the central server's site.

20 30. The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of
 directing the central server to process images further
 comprises the step of impressing the images onto a CD
 with a CD writer.

25 31. The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of
 directing the central server to process images further
 comprises the step of placing the images on a web site.

32. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of directing that the images be forwarded to a server at a local store.

5 33. The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of printing the images at a printer at the local store's site.

10 34. The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of impressing the images onto a CD with a CD writer at the local store's site.

15 35. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of directing that the images be forwarded to the user.

36. The method of Claim 35, further comprising the step of printing the images at a printer at the user's site.

20 37. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of allowing the user to connect to central server to manipulate the images.

25 38. The method of Claim 27, wherein the device is pre-configured with settings directed to the retail outlet's server.

39. The method of claim 27, wherein the device is pre-configured with a setting to direct that uploaded images are sent to the store that provided the device.

5 40. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of uploading images to the central server is determined by a user preference which specifies the time when uploading is to occur.

10 41. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of mailing processed images to the consumer.

42. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting processed images to the consumer.

15 43. The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of making the processed images available for the consumer to pick up.

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44. A method for configuring a reference platform by a user comprising the steps of:

contacting a service provider;

submitting information to said service provider;

5 creating an account for said user by said service provider;

connecting said reference platform to a communication receptacle; and

10 contacting said service provider with said reference platform;

wherein said reference platform downloads said configuration script.

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45. A method of processing digital images comprising the steps of:

connecting an imaging device to a reference platform, said reference platform having a pre-defined configuration script;

generating a print request form with said imaging device, said print request form designating at least one image file for processing;

uploading said print request form, said at least one image file and said configuration script to said service provider via said reference platform;

processing said at least one image file according to said print request form for generating a processed image; and

15 delivering said processed image to said user.